



## Interstate Data Exchange Consortium

### *A Letter from the Director*



Dear Colleague:

Our IDEC Board meeting in Savannah, Georgia this past March 12-13 proved to be a time of sharing and discussing topics that will benefit all member states in the IDEConsortium. Several board members shared topics in the meeting. We discussed State FIDM Processes, Thrift Savings Plan (TSP) collections, sharing obligor and Financial Institution Data Match (FIDM) data between the 15 IDEC member states and Limited Partner states participating in the FIDM quarterly match. Discussions also included the Federal Parent Locate Service (FPLS) portal and how correcting and editing Invalid SSNs saves time and money. Other topics discussed dealt with financial institutions not supplying correct account status indicators, Federal Benefits Interim Rule, Tennessee Child Support's strategies and plans to increase collections with increased matching capability, using locate tools to find candidates for Placement of At-Risk Children, and Federal Tax Information (FTI) issues. All of these topics have a direct or indirect impact on child support collections and focusing on them can only lead to improving collection rates.

IDEC has developed a new fact sheet fresh off the drawing board. It explains the basics of IDEC and is included with this issue of the FINDER.

Sincerely,

*Thomas L. Christmus*

Thomas L. Christmus, IDEC Director  
South Carolina Department of Social Services  
Child Support Enforcement Division

## Debt Inquiry Service

*A New Service Available for Lump Sum Reporting*

The new Debt Inquiry Service (DIS) is a web application on the federal Office of Child Support Enforcement's (OCSE) Child Support Services Portal (CSSP). DIS lets employers report information to state child support agencies about employees who are eligible to receive lump sum payouts. Participation in DIS is voluntary for both employers and states, but it is such an efficient, time-saving tool that you will want to use it!

Registered employers use the CSSP to send information about employees who are eligible to receive lump sum payments, either by uploading a file or entering information into DIS. OCSE compares this information to its debtor file, maintained at the federal level with information submitted by states about noncustodial parents who owe past-due child support. Matches are returned to the appropriate state child support agency/agencies responsible for collecting past-due support. Then, the state child support agency contacts the employer with instructions to withhold past-due support from the payment.

Currently, 29 states and 26 employers participate in DIS. For more information about DIS, including a map with the most up-to-date information on the participating states and the profile form for registration, please visit [http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/newhire/employer/dis/dis\\_for\\_employers.htm](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cse/newhire/employer/dis/dis_for_employers.htm).

If you would like a demonstration or need more information, please contact Cindy Holdren at [cynthia.holdren@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:cynthia.holdren@acf.hhs.gov) or (240) 676-2808 or Erica Holliman at [erica.holliman@acf.hhs.gov](mailto:erica.holliman@acf.hhs.gov) or (202) 401-5730.

Through our partnership with employers, we expect the Debt Inquiry Service to make a significant difference in the lives of millions of children by increasing child support collections.

#### IDEC Consortium Full Member States:

Alabama ♦ Arkansas ♦ Delaware ♦ Georgia ♦ Kentucky ♦ Louisiana ♦ New Mexico ♦ North Carolina ♦ Oklahoma ♦ Pennsylvania ♦ South Carolina ♦ South Dakota ♦ Tennessee ♦ Virginia ♦ West Virginia

# 2011 A Very Good Year Oklahoma's FIDM Program

"It was a very good year".

Using the words of Frank Sinatra to describe Oklahoma Child Support Services' (OCSS) 2011 Financial Institution Data Match (FIDM) program successes seems very appropriate. It was a good year for collections, both overall and for the year, as well as for new matching resources that helped bring in those collections.

In 2011, statewide FIDM collections reached a major milestone: \$25 million in collections. Presently FIDM collections stand at over \$26 million and keep on growing. By the end of 2012, collections should be close to, if not exceeding, \$28 million.

FIDM collections for 2011 established a record as being the highest for a single year since the program began in 2000. 2011 FIDM collections totaled \$3,658,310.25. This figure surpassed the previous record year of 2006 by just under \$500 thousand.

A major reason for the increase in FIDM collections lies in the sources of our matches. Multi-state matches provided by the Federal Office of Child Support Enforcement (OCSE) and In-state matches coming through Oklahoma's membership in the

Interstate Date Exchange Consortium (IDEC) played prominent roles this past year. Both sources of FIDM matches provided new, and in the case of IDEC, better delivery of FIDM matches for OCSS. Since February 2011, OCSE has conducted quarterly matches with the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board. The Retirement Thrift Investment Board administers the Thrift Savings Plan (TSP), which happens to be the largest defined contribution plan in the world. TSP is a tax deferred retirement savings and investment plan for Federal civilian employees as well as members of the military. OCSS sent 836 FIDM levies to TSP in 2011 and of this number 212 were successful, leading to collections totaling \$512,686.41.

July 2010 brought Informatix Inc. as a new vendor to provide IDEC member states with their In-state FIDM matches. With this change in vendor not only did Oklahoma's yearly FIDM costs drop, but the quality of services received went up. Fresh In-state matches are now processed on a weekly basis, making levies sent to those financial institutions very timely.

A new match resource provided to Oklahoma is IDEC's Limited Partnership program. With our membership in IDEC, Oklahoma already has access to matches belonging to our obligors banking in the other 14 member states of the consortium. The Limited Partnership

program provides OCSS access to our obligor accounts in states outside of IDEC. Presently eight states are participating in Limited Partnership: Alaska, Arizona, Michigan, New Jersey, North Dakota, Ohio, Texas and Wisconsin.

Collection results for OCSS from our Limited Partnership matches were very good in 2011. There were 267 successful levy actions bringing collections totaling \$372,583.65. Of this number 249 levies and \$310,429.10 in collections came from information provided from Texas In-state financial institutions. Within the consortium, Oklahoma is one of the leading states taking full advantage of the additional matching provided by the Limited Partnership program.

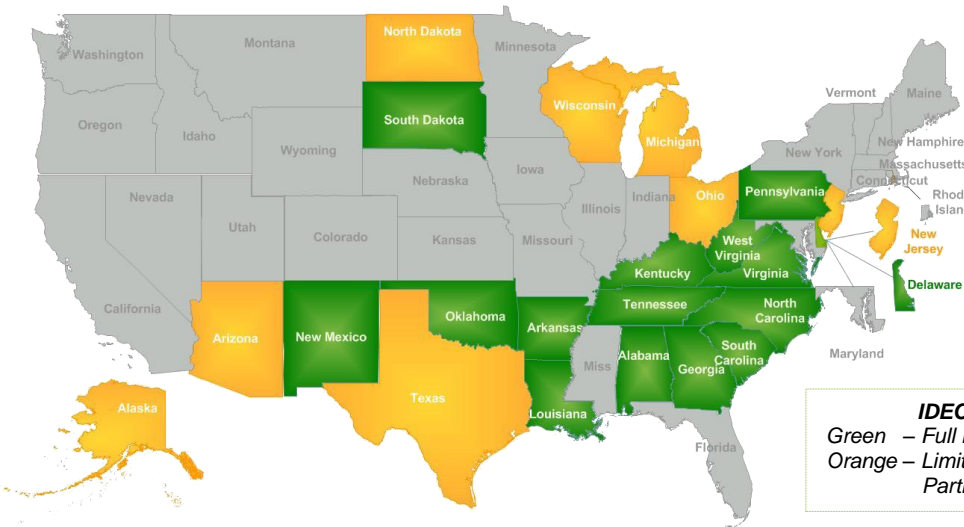
With the banner year OCSS FIDM had in 2011, 2012 looks to be following very closely in bringing the same results to the success of the program.

Please visit us at  
[www.IDEConsortium.com](http://www.IDEConsortium.com)



**Tom Christmus**  
IDEConsortium  
South Carolina Department of Social Services  
[Tom.Christmus@dss.sc.gov](mailto:Tom.Christmus@dss.sc.gov)  
803.898.7342

**Caroline Pierce**  
Business Development Manager  
Interstate Data Exchange Consortium  
[www.IDEConsortium.com](http://www.IDEConsortium.com)  
[Caroline.Pierce@informatixinc.com](mailto:Caroline.Pierce@informatixinc.com)  
916.830.1940  
707.484.1651 (cell)



**IDEC**  
Green – Full Members  
Orange – Limited Partnerships

**IDEConsortium Full Member States:**

- Alabama ♦ Arkansas ♦ Delaware ♦ Georgia ♦ Kentucky ♦ Louisiana ♦ New Mexico ♦ North Carolina ♦ Oklahoma ♦ Pennsylvania ♦ South Carolina ♦ South Dakota ♦ Tennessee ♦ Virginia ♦ West Virginia